

SQUABMOOR RESERVOIR

2017-2026: Possible Priority Site of National Importance

A medium-sized reservoir adjacent to conifer plantations and Pebblebed heathland. Presence of Red-eyed Damselfly, Hairy Dragonfly, Downy Emerald and Scarce Chaser. Red-eyed Damselfly possibly breeding and Downy Emerald confirmed breeding during 2007-2016, so likely to still breed.

Last updated: 26/03/2025

Site: SQUABMOOR RESERVOIR	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SY040840	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle			B			C	A		C			C
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly									C			
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly	B	B	C	A		C	A	+	C		B	B
Blue-tailed Damselfly		B	D		+	D			C			B
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly	B	D	E	+	D	E		B	E		B	E
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly			B		C	D	A		B			B
Red-eyed Damselfly				A		C		A	C			C
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												E
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly						B			B			B
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker						B			A			B
Migrant Hawker				A		B			B			A
Emperor Dragonfly			B	B		C	A	A	C	A		C
Lesser Emperor				A		B						
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly			B		A	B	A		B			B
Downy Emerald				A		B	A		C			B
Broad-bodied Chaser			A						B			
Scarce Chaser												C
Four-spotted Chaser						C			C	A		B
Keeled Skimmer			C	A		C			B	B	B	B
Black-tailed Skimmer			C	B	A	D	A	A	D			C
Common Darter				B	B	C	B		C			A
Red-veined Darter						A						A
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	2	3	10	10	6	18	8	5	18	3	3	19

Bold underlined = nationally important species **Bold black = important species**

Succ = Successful breeding (exuvia(e) and/or larva(e) and/or pre-flight emergent and/or oviposition);

Poss = Possible breeding (copulating pair); Other = Adult(s) or unspecified.

Abundance codes: A=1; B=2-5; C=6-20; D=21-100; E=101-500; F=>500; + = no count.

Priority Species History

Red-eyed Damselfly – small numbers were found during 12/6-7/8/05 on water lilies, with a maximum count of 3 (including 1 egg-laying); more were seen during 3/6-16/7/06, with 20 on 18/6/06; up to 20 in subsequent years.

Hairy Dragonfly – up to 3 in June 2005-7; B (2-5) in 2010, 2014 and 2018-9, with singles in other years.

Downy Emerald – First recorded on 29/7/78 (a late date for the species; presumed to be a wanderer from nearby Bystock); 1-2 in May-June 2005; an exuvia found on 14/5/06 proved breeding there, and up to 5 were seen in June; B (2-5) in 2005-6, with an exuvia on 14/5/06, after which noted regularly, with C (6-20) on 2/6/07 and 12/6/10, (when one egg-laying).

Scarce Chaser – 2 territorial males on 3/7/22 and about 6 on 18/6/23.

Other species of interest

Small Red-eyed Damselfly – 100+ appeared after hot weather on 22/7/18, but only about 10 remained by 25/7/18.

Lesser Emperor – a tandem pair egg-laying on 17/7/05 (a Moorhen caught the male and fed it to a chick); this was followed by a male on 24-30/6/06, suggesting that breeding may have been successful, albeit completing the life cycle in only one year instead of two.

Keeled Skimmer - a maximum of eight territorial males (six along outlet stream, two around the reservoir margin) in July, 1995.

Red-veined Darter – one on 18/6/06 and a male on 10/7/19.

Black Darter – reported on 3/9/78.

Habitat (based on 1995 survey report)

Tree-fringed reservoir with small beds of water-lily and some fringing tussock-sedge. Bare shoreline at anglers' swims and grass topped dam. Inlet and outflow streams.

An area of open water (reservoir pH: 8.2 and conductivity: 170 μ S/cm in 1995) surrounded by conifer plantations on two sides and by open dry heath on the third. A stream feeds the reservoir from the north, flowing through an area of willow and tussock *Molinia*. The outlet stream to the south (pH 8.1 and conductivity 180 μ S/cm in 1995) has steep banks in many places and flows through woodland; where sunlight reaches the water Keeled Skimmer and Beautiful Demoiselle are to be found. Around the reservoir there are trees on the east and west sides with areas of bare ground used by fishermen and basking Black-tailed Skimmers. There is little floating or emergent vegetation around the edge, except at the far northern end.

Status

None.

Area

4 ha

Local Authority: East Devon DC

Owner/tenant

South West Water and South West Lakes Trust

Threats

- Drawdown (though possibly not a problem, as margin gradients vary, providing some wet mud on shallower gradients as water level falls).
- Fish?

Management suggestions

- Avoid excessive clearance of overhanging bushes and trees (for Downy Emerald).
- Encourage water lilies in shallow areas (for Red-eyed Damselfly).
- Open more glades along southern stream.

Squabmoor Reservoir (1995 survey map)

